

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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Revival in McComb, Mississippi, meeting goes on with 166 conversions, reclamations and additions in first 10 days of revival at Navilla. There were 24 forward on Wednesday night, July 13, when this was written. The Pastor feels that he cannot leave the revival where the Lord is so abundantly blessing. Praise the Lord for the revival. Let all who love the Lord and lost souls continue to pray for this revival.

Echoes From Daily Vacation Bible School

Since our church was organized the Lord has blessed us by sending the most outstanding men of God to enlighten us in our Semi-annual Bible Schools, the very salt of the earth, so to speak. And I had begun to think that perhaps it would be impossible for me to ever have my cup to overflowing again. But then came the Daily Vacation Bible School, conducted by Brother Johnnie Lovell and our Mrs. Elizabeth J. Ridgway, and oh, what a treat this was, and how

KEEP IT COMING!

Copies of *The Sword of the Lord* coming regularly into the surrounding territory largely made possible the wonderful revival now in progress in the Navilla Baptist church near McComb. Wonderful blessings God has brought through these pages. We believe every reader of the paper ought to keep it coming if possible.

Mr. J. C. Johnson of Brookhaven, Mississippi, is seventy-seven years old. He was converted reading *The Sword of the Lord*. He said, "When I started reading the paper I was just lukewarm, but as I read it I got hotter and hotter until I began to boil!" He was at McComb five days of the revival, and his testimony was joyful and remarkable. When *The Sword of the Lord* does that for sinners, we ought to keep it coming into every home.

Those who subscribed for themselves for a trial subscription of thirteen weeks and the many hundreds of new readers for whom others subscribed at the special rate for thirteen weeks, will soon find their subscriptions expiring. Please look at the label today and renew so you will not miss a copy.

Beloved readers, at a great sacrifice of time, money, and labor and heart-burden we are sending out some 13,000 copies of this paper weekly. We do it without any financial reward of any kind, do it for Jesus' sake, do it happily. Does it not seem that the very least you can do is to renew your subscription promptly, make the burden as light as possible and co-operate with us in getting out the gospel?

Baptist Preachers

Over 3,000 Baptist preachers get *The Sword of the Lord* regularly. For many of these, the subscription price was paid by others. You are our friends, our brethren. We believe what you believe, we preach the Christ that you preach, we have confidence in your sincerity and integrity. We long for your fellowship. To these thousands of preachers scattered all over the nation, but particularly in Texas, we make a special appeal that you renew your subscription to *The Sword of the Lord* as it comes due.

we did feast on God's blessed Word, and how the several hundred children seemed to enjoy learning God's Word, many hearing more Bible taught in those two weeks than they had heard in their life before.

May God bless these two leaders and may He keep every word alive and fresh in the hearts of every one who attended this Daily Vacation Bible School.
(Signed) Mrs. W. W. Cunningham

Dear Mrs. Ridgway:

It is hard to find words to express how I enjoyed the Daily Vacation Bible School. It was a great pleasure for me to have a part in this Bible School. It delighted me to see how thrilled the children
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Coming Soon

In the Thirteen Weeks' Trial Subscription Campaign the editor promised that soon there would be an article on "What the Bible Says About Booze," and another on the question of the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. Many, many heavy duties have prevented the preparation of those articles. But it is planned, God willing, to soon have them ready for the press.

God has been laying on our hearts recently, also, an article on the question of divine healing. Many have been misled on this question, and so many others are in utter doubt and unbelief that it seems many might be blessed by a prayerful study of "What the Bible Teaches About Divine Healing" or "Faith Healing." God does many times answer prayer for the sick, and Christians should be encouraged to call on God for healing when sick. On the other hand, the doctrine of divine healing has been so perverted by many that some claim healing that are not healed, and disillusionment and disappointment and shaken faith have often resulted.

We also plan to have soon in *The Sword of the Lord* some evangelistic sermons. One is partly written now.

142 Responses In 9 Days' Revival

"AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY" — Acts 8:8

Remarkable and Happy Incidents in Mississippi Revival

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:5-8).

Anywhere the Spirit of God convicts sinners and saves them, restores the joy of salvation to His saints, starts Christians to soul winning, there is joy. The happiest thing this side of heaven is a blessed, heaven-sent revival.

Navilla is a full-time country church three or four miles east of McComb, Mississippi. The church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Rev. Robert Hughes, a young ministerial student in Mississippi College, is the pastor. From McComb and the surrounding territory a good many have attended Bible Schools in Dal-

las and there are dozens of subscribers to *The Sword of the Lord*.

Accepting the cordial invitation on Friday, I arrived in McComb and had the first revival service Monday, July 4. The house was packed. Tuesday night we moved into the open air. The Lord was in the revival from the very first. Crowds of saints and sinners attended. The first night at the close of the service, I asked any that would to stand and accept Christ openly. A woman who had been a backslider stood to confess it and to openly renew her covenant with God. A thirteen-year-old girl after the benediction trusted the Saviour. Although no invitation was given for the first three services, someone was converted in every service and told me about it at the close. There was a deep moving of the Holy Spirit upon all our hearts. It has been easy and sweet to preach the gospel under the manifest and potent influence of the Holy Spirit. Wednesday night I gave the first regular invitation. Twenty-eight people came forward. Most of them were straight-out conversions. A few were backsliders coming to confess backsliding and offer themselves anew to serve Christ. There were a number of men in the group, heads of families and several mothers. The invitation started slowly. The crowd was large, the singers unused to open air. Personal workers were timid; but when once people started coming to Christ there was a steady stream and three came on the last verse of the song.

There have been 130 public responses in eight days, including today, Monday. Thursday night seventeen came forward; conversions, reclamations and additions to the church. Friday night there were thirteen; Saturday night, fifteen; Sunday about thirty-one; Monday night, eight. Some have been saved each service, morning and night, even at the baptising. Bare figures can not tell the joy and the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit on the hearts and lives of the people.

At Pentecost "There were Jews, devout men out of every nation under heaven." When God gives a revival, God brings people together. Although Services are held under the auspices of a country church, people come out from McComb like those of Jerusalem went out to John the Baptist at the river Jordan. The daily newspapers in McComb have given front page publicity to my coming and to the revival with pictures and very kind
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Rebellious Wives and Slacker Husbands

WHAT IS WRONG WITH MODERN HOMES? SHOULD A WIFE OBEY HER HUSBAND?

BY JOHN R. RICE

Should a wife obey her husband? Should she be in subjection to him? Should she submit to him as if he were God, as a Christian should be toward Christ? Should a husband have authority over his wife like a master does over a servant? Should women even reverence their husbands as good women sometimes have done, obeying them and calling them Lord?

The Bible does command a woman to do all of this, as we will show from many Scriptures! But modern woman says "No!" The modern feminist movement has insisted on woman's equality with man in every respect. Women have invaded fields of endeavor once given over entirely to men. I do not especially oppose woman suffrage, nor especially favor it, and I do not believe it materially changes the outcome of elections. But it is a significant fact that women, aided by preachers and reformers, have sought and secured the right to vote and hold office. Many religious denominations now have women preachers on the same basis as men. In almost every church, the church work from singing in the choir to financing the church and doing the Bible teaching, is done principally by women. Men sit passively in an occasional service, help pay the bills, and are politely indifferent as to whether the world goes to hell or not!

Women Seek Equality With Husbands

In marriage the same spirit has come to prevail. Women expect a marriage in which they have as much say on nearly any question to be decided as their husbands, and when it comes to the rearing of the children, household prob-

lems, discipline or expenses, they expect to have the deciding voice. The average modern woman would answer the questions at the beginning of this article with an emphatic "NO!" She would be seconded by the mass of educators, politicians and preachers.

Even the devout church woman these days does not know that the Bible explicitly commands her to obey her husband and she does not even pretend to do it. On this subject preachers have either remained silent, or have made it a theme of silly jesting from the pulpit, while they either do not believe in, or are afraid to preach the unmistakable command of God's Word concerning it. Preachers have usually by choice omitted the word "obey" from the marriage ceremony, with the general approval of women, men usually remaining silent.

After the authority of husband and father in the home has been taken away, the sense of responsibility which men had in other days toward the care of their families has rapidly decreased. If a woman does not expect to obey her husband, it is also true that her husband does not expect to support his wife. There are more cases of wife and child desertion than ever before. In modern homes men do not take authority over their wives, nor women submit themselves to their husbands. In modern homes, men, not being the head of the home, do not feel responsible to protect and provide for their families.

Failure of Modern Homes and Marriage

The modern world has boasted of its wisdom in forsaking the old standards of marriage and the home, yet the modern marriage has failed. In the United States last

year there were approximately 200,000 divorces, or one divorce for every 5.9 marriages. In Texas there was one divorce to every 3 1/2 marriages, and in Tarrant County, where I have lived for the last six years, there was one divorce to every 2 marriages! One hundred thousand children, every year, have their homes broken by divorce. Certainly these homes have failed! Thousands of other homes produce boys and girls who are turned into the world without any discipline, any moral or religious training that would make them even good citizens, much less devout and happy Christians. From these unsuccessful homes, whether broken by divorce or not, come the youthful delinquents who crowd our juvenile courts and reform schools and even our penitentiaries with "boy bandits" and "bootlegger queens." Besides these, modern homes pour into society, year after year, a host of young people, undisciplined, unruly, immoral, irreligious, rebels against law and convention. The marriage and home patterned after the modern standard has failed.

Why Marriages Fail

The Bible has definite and detailed instructions concerning marriage and the relations of husband and wife. God made man and then made woman to be a help meet for man. He performed the first marriage ceremony. He placed man as the head of the home then and since that time no home has ever been successful and happy which has violated God's plain command. The failure of modern marriage is caused by failure to follow God's plan for the home. Where a man disobeys God's plain command about his duty as head of the home and where a woman refuses to
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

GIVE IT TO A JEW

In last week's *Sword* was a very fine article entitled "A Book, A Jew, and A Miracle" written by Dr. Jacob Gartenhaus. That thrilling story of the conversion of a Jew by simply reading the New Testament, ought to be of fascinating interest to every Jew. I suggest that you loan your copy of *The Sword* to a Jew and have him and his friends read it. A few copies remain and we should be specially happy for Jews to have them. Do not ask for many. Send one cent per copy and give them out carefully and prayerfully.

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD
and of John R. Rice

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JOHN R. RICE, EDITOR, Pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church

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Rebellious Wives and
Slacker Husbands

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

obey her husband as God commanded and usurps authority which God forbade her, sin reigns in that home and sin always brings heartache and trouble.

Man To Be Head of Wife

When God created the world He put Adam in charge of it before woman was created. Eve was created not as an equal partner, but a help meet, an assistant, under Adam's control. In Genesis 2:18 God says:

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

In I Peter 3:7 the Holy Spirit calls the wife "the weaker vessel" though she is heir with the man of the "grace of life." It was Eve who was deceived by the devil who took advantage of her weaker nature. The first sin for which God rebuked Adam in Genes's 3:17 was:

"Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife."

Concerning this very matter, Paul was inspired to write Timothy (I Tim. 2:11-14):

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

God's plan is that the husband should be the head of the wife and He even likens that to the authority of Christ over the church. Ephesians 5:23 says:

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body."

There could be no more positive nor emphatic statement that the husband is the head of the wife, the head of the home.

The above Scripture illustrates the position of husband as head of the wife by the position of Christ as head of the church. The husband is head of the wife like Christ is the head of the church. But the Lord also says that the man is over his wife like Christ is over the man and like God is the head of Christ, for I Corinthians 11:3 says:

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

For this reason, the Scripture continues, the woman ought to wear long hair as a covering for her head symbolizing that she is subject to her husband. Verse 15 then says that "if a woman have long hair it is a glory to her," while man should not have long hair since there is no one between him and Christ. Verse 7 says:

"A man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of the man."

Woman is the glory of the man, and verse 9 says that the woman was created for man. This is God's plan and it is good, good for the happiness and welfare of both men and women.

In the very nature of man and woman, God has written the fact that men should be head of the home and wives secondary to them in authority and subject to them. God fitted man, body, mind and heart to have the chief authority and responsibility. He fitted woman, "the weaker vessel" to take a place as help meet. To change this order violates the laws of nature as well as the command of God. That is why modern homes are usually unhappy and cannot have the favor of God.

(To be continued next issue)

Echoes From Daily
Vacation Bible School

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were as they came each morning for their Bible lessons. I enjoyed Brother Lovell very much. I also enjoyed the lolly pop and also the picnic and all the other good things that went with the Bible School. I greatly appreciate your hard work with us which made the Bible School a success.

Mrs. W. M. Taylor.

One of the high lights of the church year was the Daily Vacation Bible School, conducted by our good friend, Brother Lovell and ably assisted by Mrs. Elizabeth Ridgway and a large number of capable teachers.

Over 450 children of many denominations registered for the school. The two weeks' program was carefully planned and carried out and intense interest was shown by the children at all times. The Bible was the only text book used and the children were instructed in the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

A picnic was given on the last day of the Bible School for the children and their parents and the following Sunday both morning and evening services were conducted by Brother Lovell. In the morning service several Bibles were awarded for excellency in studies. Scriptures were quoted and songs sung by the children. In the evening service Brother Lovell brought a strong evangelistic message after which motion pictures taken during the Bible School were shown.

The greatest blessing of the entire two weeks was of course the fifteen souls that were saved and the many children that declared their intention to unite with our Sunday School.

(Signed) Mr. C. B. Philbrick.

It was a joy to me to teach in the Bible School. I think it was one of the greatest blessings that we have ever had in our church.

(Signed) Mrs. Gladys Cumble.

The most notable thing about the Daily Vacation Bible School was work. All the morning the children were kept busy memorizing Scripture in individual classes, and getting practical lessons from the Bible stories by their teachers. This was climaxed by Brother Lovell's Bible story. Every child from the little six-year-old to the sixteen-year-old, every worker and every visitor sat spellbound as he told the stories. God's Word became more real to everyone who heard. Brother Lovell is a master in this blessed field.

Afternoons the work went on. If you had visited in the homes of these children you would have found them diligently working over notebooks, and memorizing Scripture. Some parents reported that children who would not do school work, would give them no peace until they had helped them with their Bible School work.

Surely this good work will never cease.

(Signed) Mrs. John R. Rice
(More "Echoes" Next Week)

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142 Responses In 9 Days' Revival

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words. Practically everybody one meets in McComb seems to know about the revival, to know who I am, and has been or expects to attend the revival. A big school bus runs from McComb to the revival each night besides many automobiles. People have attended the revival from Wesson, Magnolia, Fernwood, Liberty, Tylertown, Summit, Brookhaven, Johnston Station, Columbia, from Jackson, 80 miles away, from Amite, Louisiana, 42 miles away. One woman came on a vacation from New Orleans, 105 miles away. Some are to come tonight from Tupelo, 250 miles away, and a number are coming tonight from Baton Rouge, 100 miles away. Bros. Horn, a minister who is in a revival at Istrouma, a suburb of Baton Rouge came to attend one night of the revival bringing a car load of friends and a very cordial letter comes today promising his prayers for the revival.

At Brookhaven, 25 miles away, lives Mr. J. D. Johnson, 77 years old. He was converted through reading *The Sword of the Lord*, so when he learned I was to be here in the revival he came to spend the week and openly claim the Saviour. He certainly has a joyful, happy heart and one case like his makes me want to get *The Sword of the Lord* out to many others. In Wesson, Miss., 35 miles away lives Mr. and Mrs. MurphySmith and Mrs. M. M. Williams. They read *The Sword of the Lord* regularly. Recently the articles in this paper, "Seven Reasons Why I Believe the Use of Tobacco Is a Sin," and "Quitting Tobacco," convinced Mr. Smith that his habit of a life-time was wrong. He and his wife kneeled down and prayed, and committed the habit to God, asking Him to take away the desire and God did! They drove down to be in the services today and rejoiced with tears in the presence of the Lord. The first words Mrs. Smith said to me were, "I praise God for the joy of this day!" I never dreamed that a country revival would have such wide-spread influence as this one is having.

We have had a good many preachers present in the services. Among local preachers Rev. W. A. Gill has been most cordial in his help and frequent attendance. In several services as many as seven preachers have been present. One night Baptist Evangelist L. T. Cooper came from Jackson, 80 miles away to be in the service. He began a tent revival in Jackson the next night. We have had present local preachers, visiting evangelists, student preachers from Mississippi College. I have been grateful for the friendliness of preachers and I thank God that much of the misunderstanding of

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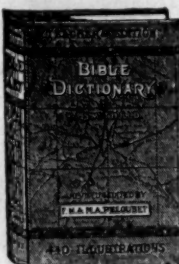
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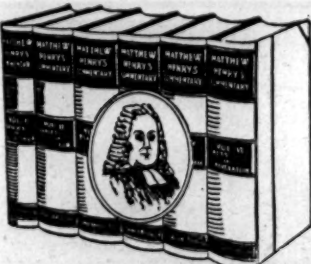
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142 Responses In 9 Days' Revival

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position, methods and aim and much of the unfriendliness of Convention Baptist preachers toward my work is disappearing. It is widely known, I find, that I am an ardent Premillennialist, that I openly and consistently oppose Modernism. But while I do not support the denominational program I preach the same gospel as the great group of the fundamentally sound, orthodox preachers. Their fellowship is sweet and for it I thank God.

People Come To Church Determined To Be Saved

The Spirit of God so moved the jailor at Philippi that "he fell down before Paul and Silas and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'" At Pentecost the people were pricked in their hearts and said, "What shall we do?" God is convicting sinners that way here. As I came to the revival grounds one night a man plucked my sleeve and told me, "There are some people here who want to see you." He led me to a car which had come early, driven just behind the pulpit where I found two young couples. One young man was a backslider and his wife, his brother and the brother's wife were all unsaved. They had come to church to find the way to God and they sent for me to tell me so! As they sat in the car I preached them a little sermon. They hung upon every word. God seemed to make clear His way of salvation through the Scriptures I used. The backslider and the other three claimed Christ as Saviour. These three climbed out of the car at the first verse of the invitation and came out openly to claim Christ, and the backslider came later.

Friday morning the church building was about full. As I went among the people shaking hands I noticed one man whose face was unfamiliar. I asked him, "Are you a Christian?" He answered immediately, "No, I'm not, but I want to join this morning." Further talk showed that he had fought the matter out ahead of time and was determined to be saved that day. When his name was called I remember we had had special prayer for him a few days ago. At the close of the service he came without a song and said as he came, "I have drank, I have sinned but I want to be saved." He joined the church for baptism.

Thirty-five have joined the Navilla church for baptism. Twenty-four have been baptized, others have joined by letter. A great many will join other churches, and some have done so already.

Ten Years Breach Between Brothers Healed

Wednesday night in the midst of the invitation I saw one man near the front stubbornly resisting the conviction that was in his face. Some one spoke to him but he didn't come. I stepped down near him and urged him to trust Christ at once. He answered back, "I will, but not tonight." "Not tonight?" I said. "But tonight is the only time you are invited. You may be dead and in Hell tomorrow!" So abruptly that it took me surprise, he turned, crowded through the the people and came to take my hand and claim Christ as Saviour. I noticed that many men came to rejoice and shake his hand when he was saved. Later I learned that he had been at outs with his brother and they had not spoken for ten years! The next morning he went to see the brother to make peace and confess his wrong. Thank God for a revival that makes peace with brothers after ten wicked, bitter years of separation.

Judge Dismisses Court So We Can Have Revival In Court Room

Twenty-five miles away from McComb is Liberty, the county seat of Amite County. Some praying women in McComb knowing that a very important court trial was in progress at Liberty got it on their hearts that we should have a revival service there among the large number of people, particularly men who were crowded in to hear the trial. I was told that people were divided over the contested case. Two car loads of us drove to Liberty. Mrs. J. H. Wilson went straight to Judge Currier at a brief intermission and asked him

to adjourn court early so we could have a revival service. She told him that I was here from Dallas, that a good many wanted to hear me, that several felt impressed a revival service was needed. He very graciously offered to adjourn forty-five minutes early. Judge Currier announced to the crowd that filled the court room that a gospel service would follow immediately and urged all to hear it. A trio sang and then I preached. People first were cold, cynical, then curious, then interested, and then the Holy Spirit of God brought deepening conviction over faces in the audience. They had been in court, many of them all day. Very few left. I first intended to speak twenty minutes but the rapt attention of the people and the power of the Spirit of God drew me on and on until I spoke fifty-five minutes. One drunk man had assured me at first that he was a fine singer but as I spoke of homes and the blessing of good wives and children, he, with other men, held their hands to gratefully acknowledge a good wife. "Then you ought to be ashamed for getting drunk," I said. One or two said, "Amen;" the crowd laughed. He was much sobered and said not another word during the entire period but sat with tears and his gaze fixed upon my face. As a boy I can remember picking the raisins out of cup cakes after I was already full—and so Thursday I picked the best parts of three or four sermons, mixed it with tears and the Holy Spirit, fed it to the hearts of hungry men! I felt impressed to call boldly on men to accept Christ. One man, Mr. Cummings, stood with tears to claim Christ as his Saviour; he told me that he was about eighty years old! A young married woman claimed Christ. Other men stood publicly to confess their backsliding. A good many went away with tears. They crowded around me, many men and some women to take every printed sermon I had brought with me on "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and on "The Unpardonable Sin."

As I came away I thanked God that he put it in the heart of a judge to adjourn court so we could have a gospel service. I thank God that he put it in the hearts of people in Liberty and the adjoining country to hear me preach. I thanked Him for souls saved and particularly for that man eighty years old who came to Christ. Surely these things are evidences of the moving of the Spirit of God. I am reminded of the Scripture in I Cor. 12:7, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

The Bus Broke Down

From McComb to the Navilla church the big school bus built for forty people runs nightly. It starts at the Fire House at 6:45 and makes a circuitous route. Last night the bus arrived late. The driver was fuming. He said to the pastor, "You'll have to get another bus driver if you want this to go on. One hundred and five people crowded in that bus tonight and we had to leave twenty people standing by the roadside who could not get in any way. One seat on the bus broke down." The pastor soothed his feelings, assured him the broken seat would be paid for and told him he need not carry more than sixty-five at a load hereafter, that other buses would be provided. Then the pastor sent cars to pick up the people waiting by the roadside to come to the revival! (Monday night—the bus driver was saved tonight!)

Already we have all the seats we could get from two churches and a school house and are trying to get many more seats. The hunger of the people for the gospel touches my heart. It makes preaching a joy as well as a holy and awful responsibility.

We Agreed to Pray For Twenty-Five Wednesday Night

Wednesday afternoon a burden of prayer came heavily upon me. Bro. Robert Hughes and I went to the home of Mrs. Burt and asked her to join us in special prayer. Groping as to what to ask for and claim for the night's service, I suggested ten people coming forward? Fifteen? Twenty-five? We prayed and asked God to give us clear leading and I kept saying us clearly—

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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142 Responses In 9 Days' Revival

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

five is not too many to ask God for." Remember, we had not given a regular invitation although several had claimed Christ. As we left Mrs. Burt's I said to Brother Hughes, "Let's go and ask Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Wilson to pray with us." He went to get Mrs. Barlow and I went to the Wilson home. I found they had already been together in prayer. Not knowing what I had suggested, Mrs. Wilson said, "I think we ought to have twenty-five people come out for Christ tonight." I didn't tell her until the next day that He had already impressed the same number on my heart but we agreed then and there to ask for twenty-five convictions and reclamations that night. How happy we were when twenty-eight people walked down the aisles that night. A few of these had made professions but

were backslidden. Most of them had not trusted Christ as Saviour until that hour.

Some Pointed Lessons From The Revival

1. The first lesson is that God answers prayer just the same as He ever did. He is still "Thou that hearest prayer" (Psalms 65:2). It is still true that "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear" (Isa. 59:1). The revival is an answer to prayer. Many have been crying to God for a revival. Some, we know, have been praying for some time that God would bring me to Mississippi and we feel grateful that God is answering their prayers.

The answers to prayer have been very definite. In a heart-searching time alone I asked God that since the time was so short He would give somebody saved at every service that I was here. Thus far that has been true. That has been a definite, explicit answer to prayer. Again many individuals have been saved as definite answers to prayer. The man who came to the morning service and told me he came to be saved had been the object of special prayer calling his name a day before. Again the Holy Spirit very clearly laid on my heart, and separately laid on the heart of Mrs. Wilson to ask for twenty-five professions of faith in the Wednesday night service. We felt assured that God would answer the prayer and rejoiced greatly in heart that He did. God answers prayer! God answers prayer for revivals!

I feel that it would honor God to mention the fact that Brother Robert Hughes, Mrs. J. H. Wilson, Miss Dorothy Wilson, Mrs. W. F. Barlow, Mrs. R. G. Burt, and Mrs. Lee Andrews, Whitfield Browning and others had been definitely praying some time with a burden for a revival in McComb. Their burden had continued for many months. They talked and prayed and wept for the revival. God answers prayer. In any community where consistent Christians, clean in their life, Spirit-led and obedient will agree and consistently, earnestly and tearfully pray for a revival God will somehow and in due time send the revival.

2. The second reason that deeply impresses my heart about this revival is that it is the reaping of long sowing. At first I commented on how easy the revival came. But on further meditation the Holy Spirit brought to my mind that there had been great preparation for a revival. I do not mean immediate preparation. There had not been time for announcements. There was little or no organization. The meeting was announced Friday and began on the following Monday, July 4th. But a group of hungry-hearted Christians, praying for a revival had been having their hearts prepared. They attended Bible schools, they studied their Bibles devoutly, they earnestly tried to win souls, and more important, they prayed. They began to sow down the country with the gospel. Bro. Robert Hughes had a bundle of *The Sword of the Lord* distributed in the Navilla community. Weekly for many weeks. Mrs. Wilson sent subscriptions for large numbers of saints and sinners in the McComb territory. Long before I arrived in McComb many families had been stirred by messages in *The Sword of the Lord*. A surprising number had been seeking to please God by cleaning up their lives. Several had quit tobacco, had begun personal soul winning and daily Bible reading. Many were interested in this unworthy preacher. When I appeared in McComb daily newspapers were good to give front page announcements and said flattering words about the preacher. From far and near people eagerly planned to attend the services as soon as they knew about the revival. The curiosity, the prejudices which are ordinarily present at first in a revival campaign were largely gone. The meeting was free enough and

people concerned enough that we could give a strong invitation the third night of the revival and prepare for decisions.

My beloved readers, revivals should be the sweet reaping of a long and prayerful and tearful sowing. It is still true that "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy," that "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:5, 6).

The Scripture commands us, "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days" (Eccl. 11:1). Christians should "Sow beside all waters" (Isa. 32:20). It's foolish to expect a revival without sowing for a revival. Christian people who pay a price in sowing the seed, getting out Christian literature, getting people to pray, developing a hunger for soul winning, can prepare the way for a revival that is sure to come from God in due time. Many people think that if they want a revival they need only have a preacher get up and preach. There should be sowing for a revival as well as reaping. There must be weeping before rejoicing. Let every heart that is hungry for a revival set out now to break up your own fallow ground and to sow the Word of God that will eventually bring results.

Doubtless many readers of this paper can promote a revival in their communities by getting readers for *The Sword of the Lord*. Get bundles of the paper to give out to friends, as was done in McComb and the Nevada community.

3. The third lesson I would suggest is that God still blesses bold, positive, spirit-filled preaching of the great fundamentals of the Christian faith. I preached on Repentance, on "All Have Sinned," on "How Shall We Escape If We Neglect So Great a Salvation," on Hell, on the second coming of Christ, in the evening services. In the mornings I have preached on "God Still Answers Prayer," on "Hindered Prayer," on "Confessing and Forsaking Sin," on Luke 11:1-13, on "How to Be Filled With the Spirit," etc. I used many Scriptures. I have been sharp, bold, positive, possibly offensive. My preaching has been urgent. The Scripture is still "Like as a fire, saith the Lord and like a hammer that breaketh a rock in pieces" (Jer. 23:29). It is sharper than a two-edged sword when wielded to the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible will bring a revival if given a chance.

4. The fourth lesson impressing my heart is that God still blesses personal soul winning. Where God intends to send a revival, then surely He will put it in the hearts of some saints to go with eager testimony and loving faithfulness to families and friends. The first night of the revival a backslider stood to confess she had been out of duty, unhappy and backslidden. The third night of the meeting she won two, and the fourth night she won four to make open profession in Christ. A wife came with tears to confess her backsliding and publicly dedicate her life to Christ. That night she had her wicked husband get down with her and pray. The next morning she had him return thanks at table. And that morning he came down to confess his backsliding. Miss Dorothy Wilson had prayed earnestly for the revival, and Wednesday night she felt the Holy Spirit compelling her to go speak to a lost boy. Soon others helped and he was happily converted and she had part for the first time in winning souls to Christ. A boy was saved by the roadside, a good many have been saved before and after the regular services. A woman was saved at the baptizing. God has honored and blessed personal individual testimonies and personal work. He will honor it anywhere Christians break up the fallow ground and are filled with the spirit and go with tears and the Word of God.

May God send many, many great revivals in communities where the Spirit of the Lord is ready and waiting for people to claim the blessing!

It was planned to close the revival Sunday, after only one week. God's blessings were so abundant and so obvious that we dared not close and we expect to stay here till Friday, God willing, before returning to Dallas for revival.

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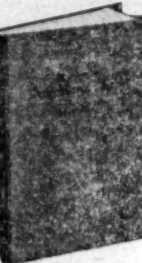
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